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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 22 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letters I have addressed to you in the past reporting on a small number of the United States attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, undermine its security and stability and destroy its national unity.

1. In my letter of 28 April 1995 (S/1995/354, annex), I informed you that news agencies around the world, quoting The New York Times for 12 April 1995, had reported that the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had allocated 15 million dollars for the funding of its operations against Iraq and the recruitment outside Iraq of agents for employment in such operations.

2. In my letter of 30 August 1995 (S/1995/752, annex), I informed you of a statement made by a spokesman for the United States Department of State at a daily press briefing on 28 August 1995 to the effect that the United States of America would pursue its efforts to change the political regime in Iraq and would continue to bring pressure to bear on the Iraqi Government until such time as it was replaced by a government favourable to the United States.

3. In my letter of 28 March 1996 (S/1996/229, annex), I drew your attention to an article published in the 26 March 1996 issue of the British newspaper The Independent reporting statements made by a CIA agent who admitted that he had planted car bombs in the cities of Baghdad and Salah al-Din and in other places in Iraq and that he had done so on direct instructions from the CIA.

4. In my letter of 10 September 1996 (A/51/345-S/1996/739, annex), I communicated to you the remarks made on 9 September 1996 by United States President Bill Clinton. He said that the United States was doing "everything we can to get out of Iraq ... those who have worked with us" in Iraq, adding that "we are doing everything we can to help anybody that needs to be out of Iraq". The United States President explicitly indicated that his country was interfering in Iraq's internal affairs when he said:

> "Our ability to keep an eye on events taking place in Iraq is limited. However, we have accomplished something I think is important ... when we saw that what he had done violated United Nations resolutions, that he was oppressing his people and had launched a military attack on Irbil. What we have done is to expand and reinforce the no-flight zone by striking at the anti-aircraft defences. This means that every day he has to pay for his ability to manoeuvre within his country and to threaten his neighbours ... we have done what we felt was needed there."

There is also the statement made on 6 February 1996 in an address to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy by United States Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, as reported by Agence France-Presse on 7 February, to the effect that he believed that there was something the United States could do, together with Jordan and other countries of the region, to expedite the overthrow of the present Iraqi regime.

These examples demonstrate the extent to which the United States is persisting in the pursuit of its openly hostile policies against the people of Iraq and its national Government. These policies have found expression not only in concrete military action and in constant threats to attack Iraq and destroy its national infrastructure but also in continued interference in Iraq's internal affairs with a view to undermining its security and stability, impairing its sovereignty and destroying its national unity.

There are many senior officials in the United States Administration who express hostility to Iraq on one occasion or another. They frankly admit that funds are allocated and agents recruited and that logistic and technical assistance are provided to members of the self-styled "opposition" in order to help them to overthrow the national system of governance in Iraq.

Recent events in northern Iraq have demonstrated that the United States of America is directly involved in operations against Iraq that are planned and led by the CIA, in open interference and in putting pressure on Iraqi citizens, recruiting them for insurgency against their Government and preventing them from entering into dialogue with that Government with a view to solving an internal problem by peaceful means. All of this made President Clinton, on 9 September 1996, admit the predicament of United States agents in northern Iraq owing to the rallying of the national forces of the people of Iraq, Arabs and Kurds, around their national leadership in order to defend Iraq's sovereignty and independence and repel all outside attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and undermine its national unity.

In many recent articles, major British newspapers have reported overt United States interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the fact that the CIA employs numerous "assets" inside Iraq to carry out clandestine operations against Iraq's national Government. I provide you hereunder with examples from such articles.

1. On 9 September 1996, in an article by Jeffrey Smith under the headline "Saddam's assault on Irbil broke CIA-funded operation", The Guardian reported that:

> "The Iraqi military's takeover of Irbil ... broke up a longstanding CIA-funded covert operation to destabilize the Baghdad Government ..."

2. On 10 September 1996, in an article under the headline "Arabs flee, abandoned and fearing for their lives", The Guardian reported as follows:

> "President Saddam's thrust into the formerly protected Kurdish zone broke up the CIA-funded operation, and the handful of CIA officers stationed in Irbil fled."

3. On 9 September 1996, in an article under the headline "Attack 'ends CIA plot' to oust Saddam", The Daily Telegraph stated that:

> "Washington has been quietly backing the dissident group known as the Iraqi National Congress since 1992 as a means of uniting Kurds and other ethnic groups in the north as an alternative to the regime of Saddam. Tens of

millions of dollars were poured into a CIA effort to create a cohesive force ... Despite disappointment voiced by agents in Iraq, President Clinton expanded the operation in January, signing a secret executive order to ship in weapons, in addition to satellite-oriented monitoring devices and encrypted telephones".

4. On 10 September 1996, in an article under the headline "Clinton helps CIA 'assets' to escape Saddam's forces", The Daily Telegraph reported that:

"A senior United States official in Washington called the failed CIA mission a disaster. He said: 'This is one of the greatest setbacks United States intelligence has ever suffered'".

The newspaper also indicated that Director of Central Intelligence John M. Deutch might find himself with a problem since, according to White House officials, he had personally promised that the effort to oust Saddam would succeed within a year. According to the newspaper, some United States officials had said that President Clinton always dislikes clandestine operations, but that he had been convinced that this operation had a good chance of destroying Saddam.

The deployment of United States land, sea and air forces currently taking place along Iraq's borders is an overt threat of aggression under the terms of the Definition of Aggression annexed to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974.

The hostile actions of the United States represent a concrete example of organized State terrorism being committed against the people of Iraq by a major Power without regard for the humanitarian and material consequences that such illegal and unlawful actions may entail.

Moreover, the conduct of the United States represents an act of military and political compulsion directed against Iraq's political independence and territorial integrity. It also constitutes a dangerous precedent in international relations as a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms and provisions of international law and all the conventions and covenants that govern relations between States. This is so for the following reasons:

1. It constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that one of the purposes of the United Nations is:

"To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace".

2. It constitutes a breach of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that:

"All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

3. It constitutes a violation of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, annexed to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, which reads, in part, as follows:

"The principle concerning the duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter

"No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, or for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of intervention or attempted threats against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are in violation of international law.

"..."

The practices engaged in by the United States and its subsequent large-scale military mobilization, undertaken without regard for the widespread disapproval aroused in world public opinion, are in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and respect for the sovereignty of States and the dignity of their nationals. This requires that the Organization should meet its responsibility to prevent aggression and avert the dangerous consequences of such aggression, which would exacerbate the bitter suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the insistence of the United States on maintaining the embargo against them.

The Government of Iraq urges the United Nations to take action to halt all the hostile practices threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. It regards the Government of the United States of America as bearing full international responsibility for the consequences of these illegal actions, and it affirms Iraq's unrestricted right to take whatever action it deems appropriate to defend its territorial integrity and the security of its people.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 November 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/15, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", without a vote. In that resolution, the Assembly, considering that the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) complement and support the work of the United Nations, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the two organizations and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the matter.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 50/15.

II. COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

4. On 24 July 1996, a cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union was signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The full text of the agreement appears in the annex to the present report.

5. The agreement aims at strengthening relations between the two organizations by substantially facilitating their effective exercise of mutually complementary activities and allowing them to cooperate more closely in undertaking joint

efforts in particular areas of their activities for the benefit of mankind. It provides that the two organizations shall hold regular consultations and that joint projects and programmes may be initiated by their competent organs. The agreement emphasizes, in particular, that the United Nations, if necessary, may request the cooperation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in areas where the latter has developed a specific expertise through its permanent programmes.

6. The agreement also contains provisions on ensuring effective cooperation between the Secretariats of the two organizations and on arranging for the exchange of information and documentation relating to specific matters or activities of common interest with a view to attaining better complementary action.

7. In remarks made at the signing ceremony, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the text reinforced the ties that went back a long way between the two institutions, in numerous areas and in particular in the service of peace, human rights and democracy. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council stated that the agreement allowed for substantial cooperation between the world organization of Governments and the world organization of parliaments, thus better expressing the will of the people at the international level.

III. OTHER MEASURES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

8. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a representative to attend the ninety-fifth Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Istanbul from 12 to 20 April 1996. In a message read by this representative, the Secretary-General told the members of IPU that they played a crucial role in the service of the values of the Charter of the United Nations and that their institution was one of the most accomplished realizations of the maxim that serves both as prelude and foundation for the world Organization, "We the peoples of the United Nations". The Secretary-General was also represented at the ninety-sixth Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Beijing from 16 to 21 September 1996.

9. As a first concrete expression of the cooperation agreement signed in July 1996, a meeting on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, organized jointly by IPU, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was held in New York on 5 and 6 September 1996. The meeting was aimed at enhancing cooperation between parliaments, Governments and intergovernmental organizations for the effective implementation of the results of the World Summit for Social Development. A catalogue was drawn of concrete steps and actions to be taken by national parliaments and their members in order to follow up and implement the decisions and recommendations adopted at the World Summit in Copenhagen.

ANNEX

Cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations calling, inter alia, for the promotion of international cooperation in solving problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations is the principal organization dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and acts as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of the goals set out in the Charter,

Considering that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (hereinafter "IPU"), shares the principles and objectives of the Charter, and that its activities complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Recognizing in particular the important role played by IPU through its activities in promoting representative democracy,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/15 of 15 November 1995, which calls for strengthening existing cooperation between the United Nations and IPU,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

General

1. The United Nations recognizes that IPU, as the world organization of parliaments, by virtue of its character and responsibilities plays an important role in promoting peace and international cooperation in furtherance of and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

2. IPU recognizes the responsibilities of the United Nations under the Charter and undertakes to continue to support its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

3. The United Nations and IPU agree that strengthening of cooperative relations between them will facilitate the effective exercise of their mutually complementary activities and, therefore, undertake to further those relations through the adoption of practical measures.

Article II

Cooperation and consultations

1. The United Nations and IPU shall cooperate closely and hold consultations as and when appropriate in pursuance of their respective mandates and for the realization of their shared objectives.

2. To this end, the United Nations and IPU shall consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when appropriate.

Article III

Appropriate representation

1. Should the United Nations consider an item on the agenda of an IPU meeting or conference to fall within the purview of its competence, activities and expertise, upon its request, the Secretariat of IPU will invite the United Nations to send its representatives to such meetings or conferences, subject to the applicable rules of procedure and to relevant decisions to be taken by the competent bodies of IPU.

2. Should IPU consider an item on the agenda of the General Assembly to fall within the purview of its competence, activities and expertise, upon its request, the Secretariat of the United Nations will invite IPU to send its representatives to be present during the plenary meetings of the Assembly at which such an item is considered.

3. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure and the decisions and practices of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and of a subsidiary organ of the Assembly, IPU may be invited upon its request to participate in the meetings of such bodies when they consider a subject that falls within the purview of IPU competence, activities and expertise.

4. If the convening organ so decides, IPU shall be invited to participate in the work of conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations on subjects that fall within the competence, activities and expertise of IPU.

Article IV

Joint action and technical cooperation

Specific joint action and programmes may be initiated by the competent bodies of the United Nations and IPU. In particular, the United Nations may request the cooperation of IPU in areas where it has developed a specific expertise through its permanent programmes.

Article V

Cooperation between the Secretariats

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of IPU shall take appropriate measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of the two organizations.

Article VI

Exchange of information and documents

1. The United Nations and IPU shall arrange to the fullest extent possible and so far as is practicable for the exchange of information and documents in public domain on matters of common interest.

2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects, programmes or activities may also be exchanged between the parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the two Secretariats.

Article VII

Supplementary arrangements

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of IPU may, if necessary, enter into supplementary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the present agreement.

Article VIII

Entry into force, amendments and duration

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the two organizations.

2. This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the United Nations and IPU. The proposed amendment shall be made in writing and shall enter into force three months following the expression of consent by the United Nations and IPU.

3. This agreement may be terminated by either the United Nations or IPU providing a six-month written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized representatives of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, have signed the present agreement.

SIGNED this 24th day of July 1996 at New York in two originals in the English language.

For the United Nations:

Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
Secretary-General

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

Ahmed FATHY SOROUR
President of the
Inter-Parliamentary
Council

Pierre CORNILLON
Secretary-General

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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	SITUATION OF THE CENTRES AND ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FINANCING THEM	3 - 11	2
III.	ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRES	12 - 18	4
	A. Regional Centre in Africa	12 - 15	4
	B. Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean	16 - 18	4
IV.	CONCLUSIONS	19 - 21	5
Annex.	Statement by Mr. Martínez-Morcillo of Spain to the 26th meeting of the First Committee on 17 November 1995		6

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/71 C of 12 December 1995. In that resolution, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to seek new alternative ways of financing the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (Lomé) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima), to continue to provide all necessary support to them in fulfilling their mandates; to ensure that their directors are, as far as possible, locally based in order to revitalize their activities; and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the resolution. The report briefly describes the administrative and financial situation of the centres, suggests alternative means of financing them and includes concise accounts of their activities from July 1995 to June 1996.

2. A statement made by Spain, on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, in an explanation of vote after the adoption of the above resolution, is annexed to the report, as requested by them. The United States of America associated itself with both the statement and the request that it be annexed to the report.

II. SITUATION OF THE CENTRES AND ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FINANCING THEM

3. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was established in 1986, and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1988. They function under the auspices of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Headquarters.

4. I have repeatedly underlined the importance of fostering the regional approach to disarmament, and wish to seize the opportunity presented by this report to reiterate this view. The approach is gaining ground theoretically and operationally. Regional Powers and entities have begun to see the benefit of assuming more responsibility for the maintenance of security in their respective regions. I remain convinced that the regional centres, if adequately funded and staffed, could be creative institutions of regional cooperation to foster a climate for the promotion of sustainable peace and development. They could contribute to regional disarmament efforts and to fostering confidence-building and transparency measures, including the consideration of developing regional registers of conventional weapons, at the request of the States concerned.

5. Despite my previous appeals, the centres continue to lack adequate financial resources and are not able to function in the manner intended by the General Assembly. Voluntary contributions for the Lomé and Lima centres have remained insufficient.

6. Since the submission of my previous report on the subject (A/50/380), voluntary contributions in the amount of US$ 12,333.33 have been pledged to the

Lomé Centre. As of July 1996, a total of US$ 27,133.86 has been received, including pledges for the year 1995. I wish to express my gratitude to the Governments of Finland, Norway, South Africa and Sweden for their contributions, and to the host country for its support of the Centre.

7. Voluntary contributions in the amount of US$ 11,833.33 have been pledged to the Lima Centre. As of July 1996, a total of US$ 7,776.33 had been received, including prior pledges for 1994 and 1995. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Panama and Sweden for their contributions, and to the host country for its support.

8. The ongoing financial crisis of the United Nations and the consequential demands for cost-cutting measures have made it necessary to freeze for the biennium the post of Director of the Lomé Centre, which has been vacant since the resignation of the incumbent in July 1992. Responsibility for the daily management of the Centre has therefore been assumed by an officer-in-charge (research assistant). The Centre has been operating with a skeleton local staff at the General Service level since that time.

9. With much regret, I was obliged to suspend the activities of the Lima Centre at the end of June 1996 until further notice owing to the fact that there were insufficient funds to cover the costs of the salary of the only staff member working at the Centre, and of the planned operational activities for the second half of 1996. Since August 1993, responsibility for the Centre had been assumed by a local staff member at the General Service level. No other local support staff had been recruited. Activities involving the region are now being carried out through United Nations Headquarters in New York.

10. The need for a larger and more stable financial base is acute. In the case of the Lomé Centre, it appears that this condition might be met from voluntary support, providing funding levels increase. The activities of the Lima Centre will remain suspended until adequate support is guaranteed. I strongly support and reiterate the appeals made by the General Assembly to Member States, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to provide voluntary contributions.

11. In response to the request of the Assembly, I have explored alternative means of financing for the centres. I have begun to foster links between the disarmament and the development sectors of the United Nations system, based on the concept of "no peace without development and no development without peace". There seems to be room for a possible integration of the operational and administrative functioning of the centres with projects and activities of existing United Nations development programmes. Consultations with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are under way. I shall report on their outcome to the General Assembly in due course.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRES

A. Regional Centre in Africa

12. The Centre continued to carry out its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. While activities continued to be curtailed owing to severe financial constraints, the Centre primarily disseminated information relating to peace, disarmament and security relevant to the African region. It continued to organize monthly informal meetings at its headquarters at which political leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations, academics and the general public could discuss and propose solutions for issues relating to peace, security and disarmament in Africa. The Centre widened distribution of its bilingual publication The African Peace Bulletin/Bulletin Africain de la Paix which focuses on relevant developments relating to peace, security and disarmament in Africa. The Centre's documentation reference library increased and diversified its holdings through an inter-library loan system linking it with several research and academic institutions.

13. At the invitation of the host Government, the Officer-in-Charge made a presentation on 8 December 1995, entitled "The United Nations faced with peacekeeping challenges" on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In addition, the Officer-in-Charge participated in a high-level workshop at Bethanie, Togo, in March 1996. It was organized by the host Government and the Resident Coordinator for Operational Activities of the United Nations System, with the assistance of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Turin, Italy. A presentation was made on the Regional Centre's mandate and activities. On 7 May 1996, the Centre participated in a Reflection Day on "Education, Violence and Peace" organized by the Institut national des sciences de l'education (INSE) of the University of Benin.

14. In accordance with its mandate, the Centre provided substantive and organizational support to the seventh and eighth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held respectively at Brazzaville from 28 August to 1 September 1995, and at Yaoundé from 15 to 19 April 1996.

15. The Centre continued to expand its contacts and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, and research and academic institutions, in promotion of its objectives. Visitors to the Centre, who included senior officials from Member States, and academic and research institutions, as well as students and members of the public, were briefed on issues relating to peace and disarmament.

B. Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean

16. Although severe financial constraints influenced the work of the Centre negatively, it was able to carry out, until 30 June 1996, the following activities in accordance with its mandate contained in resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986.

17. The Centre published four issues of the Spanish-language Boletín and regularly distributed disarmament and security-related publications of its own or from other United Nations offices throughout the region. The Centre's reference library continued to be used by researchers and students.

18. The Centre cooperated with the United Nations Information Centre in Lima in organizing and convening several special events in connection with the celebration of Disarmament Week in October 1995 and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. It organized an exhibit of United Nations posters, photographs, publications and video films related to disarmament in San Isidro; an art contest for school-age children in the same municipality; and a conference at the University of Lima on "The United Nations in the twenty-first century, a new role and new challenges".

IV. CONCLUSIONS

19. I feel strongly that the mandates of the centres, as established by the General Assembly over a decade ago, not only remain valid but are even more relevant today in view of the growing threats to peace and security in Africa, and of the need to promote the institutionalization of security cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The centres can play a useful role in support of numerous initiatives for conflict prevention and resolution, arms restraint and disarmament, and confidence-building in their respective regions.

20. Provided that new resources could be secured, the activities of the centres could be reviewed, expanded and adapted to support present challenges. Without an adequate and stable resource base, the future viability and effective functioning of the centres will be severely undermined. Insufficient financing continues to make it difficult to maintain them.

21. I wish to appeal strongly once again to Member States, as well as to international and national organizations and foundations, to make substantial contributions to the centres in order to revitalize them and to ensure their effective functioning.

ANNEX

Statement by Mr. Martínez-Morcillo of Spain to the 26th meeting of the First Committee on 17 November 1995

"I am speaking to express the position of the European Union on draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.24, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", which has just been adopted without a vote. a/ I also speak on behalf of the following countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

"Our countries continue to believe that regional disarmament efforts continue to be important. Consequently, we regret to note that the United Nations Regional Centres in Lomé and Lima have been unable since last year to carry out substantive activities because of a lack of resources, which should have come from voluntary contributions.

"Unfortunately, this is the continuation of a pattern we have seen for a number of years. The draft resolution does not reflect these facts nor does it take into account the Secretary-General's report this year, b/ which makes it clear that the closure of the centres may be dictated by a lack of resources.

"As we see it, it would not be responsible for the First Committee to ignore the grave financial circumstances facing the United Nations, which the Secretary-General has rightly drawn to our attention. We do not feel that we can turn our backs on reality any longer. If, despite our renewed efforts every year, it is not possible to secure financing through voluntary contributions, which will make it possible for the centres to carry out substantive work, then we share the Secretary-General's view that the centres will have to be closed and the activities carried out from United Nations Headquarters. The approach to a draft resolution next year should be reconsidered, therefore, in the light of these circumstances.

"I should like to add that in accordance with the same principles our delegations have joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.31/Rev.1, entitled 'United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific'. This Centre attracts levels of voluntary resources that are sufficient to enable it to carry out valuable work. I request that the text of this explanation of vote be annexed to next year's report of the Secretary-General on these centres."

Notes

a/ Later adopted without a vote by the General Assembly on 12 December 1995 as resolution 50/71 C.

b/ A/50/380.